

### REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 9 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood et al. taken with Arai et al. Claim 2-8, 10-13 and 15-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 is now amended to include all the limitations of claim 2 which is canceled. The amended claim 1 is allowable. By virtue of dependency, claims 1, 4-6 and 8 should also be allowable.

Claims 3 and 7 are respectively rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim 1. Claims 3 and 7 are now allowable.

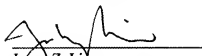
Claim 9 is now amended to include all the limitations of claim 10 which is canceled. The amended claim 9 is allowable. By virtue of dependency claims 14 and 16 should also be allowable.

Claims 11 and 15 are respectively rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim 9. Claims 11 and 15 are now allowable.

Claim 12 is also rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim 9. Claim 12 and its dependent claim 13 are now allowable.

The above amendment has been made without prejudice. Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-16 are now in full condition for allowance. The above amendment results in four independent claims in excess of three which require an additional filing fee of \$100.00 x 4 = \$400.00 (small entity). The required fee is submitted on line along with the amendment. The specification has been amended to correct a few editorial and grammatical errors. Several wordings in the claims are also changed so as to comply with the formality requirement. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this application.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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